

I travel a great deal: more than 1 million miles since the late 1980s. I am horrified at the idea of cell 'phones being used on planes: a closed, cramped, artificial environment. The unpreventable and inevitable aural intrusion into what little personal space is available to a passenger is a hideous idea. I don't want to be assaulted with the urgent negotiations of someone's important deal; the details of some else's personal life or the cacophony from the incessant ringing of phones that can now broadcast anything from Bach to Boyz n the Hood. Jumbo jets that hold 100s of people is no place for all that racket. The noise will add to the discomfort and stress that already exists in ever-increasing cramped quarters. Its a safety hazard. People already fight over reclining seats and limited overhead compartment space. Its only a matter of time before some one hauls off and punches an annoying phone user. I pity the flight attendants who will have to deal with them--and the noise flight after flight. It is not an overstatement to say that exposing passengers and attendants to a constant onslaught of conversation and ring tones is as detrimental as cigarette smoke in the cabin. You can't get away from it. I take no comfort in the suggestion that someone will create a device that I can buy to keep out the noise. I already have to travel with a computer and related devices. Those are necessary--a noise blocker shouldn't be. And it will be only one more thing I have to pass through the metal detector. Cell phones on planes is one of the single worst ideas I have heard in a very long time. Don't allow it.